

Since moving to Los Angeles two years ago, Langham Creek grad Kenneth Rivera has landed a role as a dancer on the Nickelodean show *Victorious* and is currently working on an album

To kick start his dreams, Rivera auditioned for [redacted] and was accepted to a performing arts conservatory in L.A.



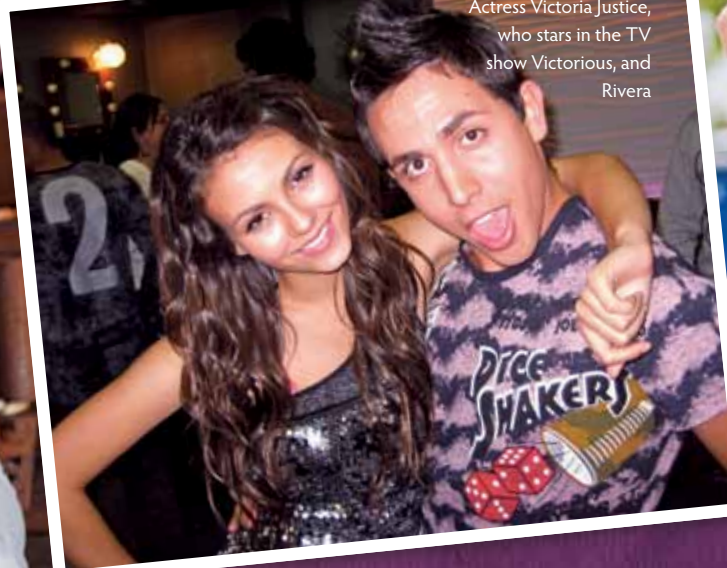
A STAR ON THE RISE

Langham Creek grad Kenneth Rivera lives his dream of dancing and singing in Los Angeles

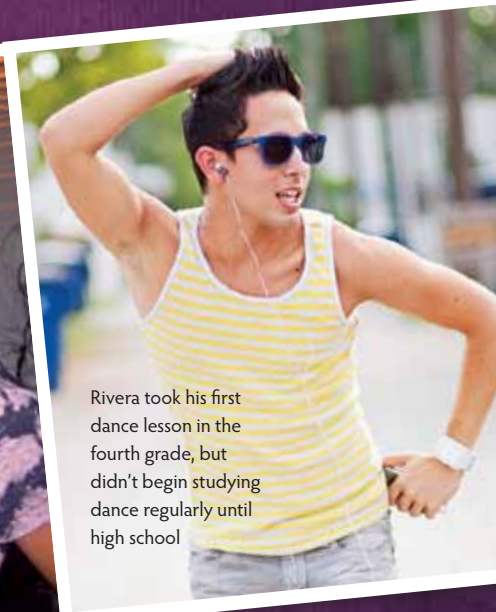
Written by Jen Petty | Select Photography by April Pizana Photography



As a band member in junior high, Rivera discovered his passion for music



Actress Victoria Justice, who stars in the TV show *Victorious*, and Rivera



Rivera took his first dance lesson in the fourth grade, but didn't begin studying dance regularly until high school

Many kids dream of going to Hollywood and “making it” in the entertainment industry, but for one Cy-Fair native, that dream is actually coming true. Kenneth Rivera, a multi-talented Langham Creek High School graduate, is living his dream. After a lifetime of loving the performing arts, Rivera moved to Los Angeles two years ago and landed a spot as a dancer on the Nickelodeon show *Victorious*. He has also distinguished himself as a vocal artist, having recently recorded his first music video, with an album on the way.

Love at First Song

Rivera took his first dance class when he was in fourth grade and remembers loving it, but, he says jokingly, “I decided to play football instead.” Rivera got back into the arts when he joined the band in junior high. “I really discovered that music was my passion,” he recalls. “Ever since then, I’ve always done something with music, whether it be playing an instrument, singing, dancing, or performing.”

During his freshman year of high school, Rivera had his first solo. “I just remember getting this huge rush, and it was something I had never felt before,” he shares. “I couldn’t get enough of it.” That performance was a turning point. He knew then that he wanted to become a recording artist and perform his own music. During his junior year of high school, Rivera went back to the dance company where he had taken that first class some seven years earlier and took every class he could.

Life in Los Angeles

Rivera knew that Los Angeles would offer him the best chance of success, but the only way his parents would let him move across the country was if he were going to school. He auditioned for a performing arts conservatory in L.A., got accepted, and booked his ticket.

Two years ago after some networking, Rivera found out about an audition with an agency that was looking for some new talent. He



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was signed for musical theater, but after a short while, asked if he could intern for them. By interning, he was able to do a lot of networking, which helped him land the spot on *Victorious*.

Rivera recalls that when he first began meeting his famous L.A. neighbors – actors and actresses he'd only seen before on TV – he was extremely shy. "But then, I started realizing that they're just like me," he says. "They put their jeans on one leg at a time just like I do." He adds, "The only difference is that their jeans have a designer name on them. It doesn't really affect me, honestly. I'm there to work and that's where my focus is, on the task at hand."

Rivera broke into the music industry when his landlord's daughter introduced him to her voice coach. Now, Rivera works with the voice coach and two writers. He shares, "We all kind of sit down in a room, and they're like, 'What do you want to talk about?' Then I tell them what it is that's on my mind, and these guys are amazing! I mean, they take my exact words and will create rhythm and lyrics to a song. It's crazy! Writing isn't something I've ever done. I'm now starting to write more, but if it weren't for those guys, I wouldn't be where I'm at and doing what I'm doing."

Overcoming Career Challenges

While Rivera's artistic success may seem like a piece of cake, it has come after much effort and hard work. "Working in L.A. is the hardest thing I've ever done, but I wouldn't change that for the world," he says. "It's made me who I am today and I'm stronger than ever. God put these obstacles in front of me for a reason, and I'm anxious to find out why."

During his time in the City of Angels, Rivera has discovered that the keys to success are drive and focus. "There's so many things that can sidetrack you and make you lose motivation, but you have to be completely confident and know what you want," he advises. "Don't get me wrong, I'm having a blast and doing things I've never even dreamed of, but it takes a lot out of you, especially when you're on your own and your family and friends are across the country."

Rivera's many successes are part of a long-term process, and he encourages other Cy-Fair students interested in a similar path to never stop learning and striving to achieve their goals. "I've learned that you're never done training," Rivera shares. "If you really want to make this stuff a reality, you've got to stay in classes and continue practicing, growing, and learning. I can't stress that enough. It's more competitive out here than anywhere else. There are so many people out here in L.A. who want the exact same things you do."

While at times rewarding, the path to fame can be difficult and full of challenges to overcome. "It's long and hard, and at times, it may seem like you're out here for nothing," says Rivera, adding, "But don't let that stop you. Dreams don't just come true. You make them come true."

Looking Forward to the Future

While Rivera says he will forever be a Texan, he also loves his adopted home of L.A. with all of the wonderful opportunities it offers. He has just completed his second season on *Victorious* and is looking forward to filming the next season.

Rivera is also looking forward to recording more music. He recently spent the summer working on tracks, promoting himself as an artist, and filming another music video in hopes of getting a record deal. While he might not know what the future holds, this Langham Creek grad is blazing the way to an exciting future while inspiring other Cy-Fairians. CFM

JEN PETTY is the mother of three wonderful kids, and though she still has many dreams for her life, she is already living some of them.

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Rivera and Daniella Monet
of Victorious

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